

Introduction

The *Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas* provides guidance for preventing or minimizing the related problems of erosion, sediment and stormwater on construction sites and eroding urban areas. It provides a basis for developing sound plans and implementing appropriate measures, commonly referred to as Best Management Practices. It can help users meet environmental and regulatory objectives.

The Handbook recognizes that erosion and runoff are influenced by the combination of climate, topography, soils, vegetative cover and the extent of land-disturbing activities. Because topography, soils, environmental conditions, and to a lesser extent local climate vary widely over the state, the application of the procedures and criteria in the Handbook should be tailored to local site-specific conditions and user objectives.

Erosion at construction sites and the resulting sediment-laden and turbid stormwater runoff impact individuals, our society and the environment. Damages occur on-site and off-site if land, water and related resources are degraded. Similar impacts may occur as a result of erosion in urban areas on non-construction sites.

The Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee, acting under authorities set forth in section 9-8-22 of the Code of Alabama 1975, printed the first edition of the Handbook in 1993. Its purpose was to aid land users, including developers, contractors, consultants, city, county and state planners and planning boards, other governmental officials, and homeowners in adequately addressing the soil erosion, sediment, and stormwater problems associated with land disturbing activities associated with non-agricultural development. The First Revision of the Handbook was completed in 2002. It added Chapter 9 and provided thirteen additional practices that were not in the original Handbook.

The Handbook June 2003 update involved all parts of the previous handbook and divided it into two volumes to make the contents more user-friendly. Additional practices were added to make the Handbook more comprehensive. Revision No. 1 dated January 2006 was made to add the Bioretention and Stream Diversion practices, to revise the procedure for determining the size of rip-rap for the Channel Stabilization practice and to correct several grammatical errors.

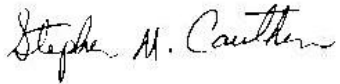
Revision No. 2 of March 2009 made significant changes including adding the concept of Low Impact Development and revising practices in the Sediment Control section.

Revision No. 3 of September 2014, made improvements by incorporating industry suggestions and further integrating the concepts of Low Impact Development to mesh with the new LID Handbook in Alabama. Some of the more significant changes include replacing exotic invasive species with native species in the Shrub, Vine and Groundcover Planting practice, modifying the specifications of the Class A Silt Fence in the Sediment Barrier practice, adding the practice Flocculant as a Sediment Control measure, and providing CAD drawings for several of the practices that were supported earlier with only figures.

It is a goal of the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee that we keep the Handbook current with changing technology. Although we cannot use the Handbook to identify and recommend specific products, we recognize that product development will continue and that over time we gain a

better understanding of the effectiveness of practices and systems. We desire that the Handbook framework accommodate, usually in a generic context, those products that are needed in Alabama and our understanding of how they should be used to efficiently protect our land and water resources.

As we look to the future, we urge those that make decisions affecting our land and water resources to voluntarily embrace sound technology, practice strong stewardship of our land and water resources, and encourage their colleagues to promote voluntary conservation efforts. Yes, regulations are necessary for several reasons, but a conservation ethic that recognizes that our natural resources should be protected during and after development puts the tasks of erosion control, sediment control and stormwater management in an important and positive context. Using this approach maximizes benefits the citizens of Alabama and protects the State's precious environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen M. Cauthen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen M. Cauthen, Executive Director
Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee